

REMARKS

Pursuant to the November 7, 2005 interview with Examiner Toomer, applicants respectfully submit that the claims have been amended to recite the subject matter in a form overcoming all of the rejections of record.

The claims were amended as follows:

The term diethylene glycol mono(nonylphenyl)ether was deleted from claim 1.

The Examiner had rejected the Claims 1,3,4,6,11-12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orth (US 6,503,077) in view of Hussain (US 4,552,693). It is the Examiner's position that Orth differs from the claim in that Orth does not specifically teach the presence of a surfactant. The Examiner further states that the Hussain reference teaches a polyamide-based candle comprising a plasticizer comprising nonyl phenol ethoxylate. It is the Examiner's opinion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare a candle composition comprising the surfactant nonyl phenol ethoxylate because Hussain teaches that this compound assists in making the candle composition clear or transparent (see col. 2, lines 37-38).

In contrast to the present invention, the combination of Orth and Hussain teach away from applicants' invention. Applicants note the differences of Orth pointed out by the Examiner. The Hussain reference fails to cure these deficiencies.

Specifically, Hussain teaches the use of a plasticizer/solvent system which comprises a gellant, a plasticizer and a cosolvent. The plasticizer is a sulfonamide. The gellant is preferably a light mineral oil yet other grades of mineral oil can also be used. The preferred cosolvent is nonyl phenoethoxylate. The plasticizer and gellant are preferably used in about 1:2 weight ratio; that is about twice as much gellant as plasticizer is employed in the plasticizer/solvent system. The cosolvent is present in the system in the amount required to achieve a clear uniform blend. A preferred

plasticizer/solvent system for use with a polyamide resin, such as Unirez 2931, comprises a mixture of about 18.1 weight percent Santicizer 8, 35.2 weight percent of mineral oil titrated to clarity with 46.7 weight percent Igepal CO210. See generally, Column 4 lines 1- 45.

Applicants invention recites, inter alia, in Claim 1 a **substantially hydrocarbon-free**, substantially stearic acid-free, transparent, syneresis-free candle. Thus, the present invention is free of hydrocarbons such as mineral oil as required by the Hussain reference.


In view of these comments and to put the present case in condition for allowance, applicants have deleted the term diethylene glycol mono(nonylphenyl)ether.

Accordingly, Claim 1 and all remaining dependent Claims 4-6 and 13-15 are patentable and not obvious under 35 USC § 103(a) over Orth in view of Hussain. Therefore, it is believed that Claim 1, 4-6 and 13-15 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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